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IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.: OOCL-152 (6MHA-03S0555P1)

Applicants: Sumio KAWAI et al..

Serial No.: 10/780,440

Filing Date: February 17, 2004

Title: CAMERA

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Group Art Unit: 2612

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R:

Information Disclosure Statement Transmittal

The applicants respectfully request that the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A be considered in the examination of the above-identified application. A copy of each of these references, except for U.S. patents and patent application publications is enclosed. (See the notice, "Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications Filed After June 30, 2003," Pre-OG Notices (July 11, 2003).)

An English language abstract of each of the non-English language references is provided. A concise statement of the

relevance of the non-English language references is provided below.

Non-English language reference JP-57078032 discloses that an oscillator of an ultrasonic wave generator is arranged in a predetermined position of the outermost surface body (for example, a filter) of a photographing optical path system of a camera. When photographing, a water drop or dust is prevented from adhering thereto by function of ultrasonic waves.

Non-English language reference JP-62-165127 discloses that in an optical device for use in various detectors or the like, ultrasonic energy is directly or indirectly applied to, and vibrates a lens, a mirror, glass, etc., which are in contact with a particulate-laden atmosphere, thereby preventing particulates from adhering thereto.

Non-English language reference JP-01-230016 discloses that in a laser work apparatus having a laser optical path to guide a laser beam via an optical element, the optical element is vibrated to remove dust adhered thereto, in a non-photographing time.

Non-English language reference JP-03-244281 discloses that in an optical apparatus, such as a video camera or an optical distance measurement device utilizing infrared, a translucent filter arranged outside the lens is ultrasonically vibrated, thereby removing vapor, raindrops and dust from the outer surface of the translucent filter.

Non-English language reference JP-05-213286 discloses that a piezoelectric element is attached to a portion near the lens support of an optical lens system, and a high-frequency voltage is applied to the element to vibrate it, thereby removing dust from the lens surface of the optical lens system.

Non-English language reference JP-07-151946 discloses that when adhesion of a water drop or dust on the surface of a protection glass plate exposed to the outside is detected, ultrasonic vibrations are applied to the protection glass plate.

Non-English language reference JP-07-322153 discloses that the distance between the light receiving surface of an optical/electrical converting element sealed with transparent resin in a package and the light incident surface of the package is set to such a length that the shadow of dust adhered to the package surface is blurred so as not to influence the focus detection on the light receiving surface.

Non-English language reference JP-08-079633 discloses that a CCD line sensor is supported by a fixing stage, and the fixing stage is vibrated by a piezo-element, thereby removing dust from the CCD line sensor.

Non-English language reference JP-09-130654 discloses that a piezoelectric element is provided between a bear chip CCD and a substrate of a CCD assembly, and a voltage is applied to the piezoelectric element, thereby shaking off dust from the light receiving surface of the bear chip.

Non-English language reference JP-2000-029132 discloses that a transparent electrode is formed on a seal glass surface

covering the optical members arranged in the optical path of optical equipment and the light receiving surface of a piezoelectric element, and equi-potentially connected to the casing of the optical equipment via a conductive connecting portion, thereby preventing adhesion of dust or the like owing to electrostatic generation.

Non-English language reference JP-2000-330054 discloses that in an optical scanning apparatus comprising a laser source, an optical deflector, a scanning optical system and an optical member provided on the outer periphery of the casing, the optical member is vibrated, so that dust or the like may not easily adhere to the surface of the optical member.

Non-English language reference JP-2001-298640 discloses that when a cleaning button is operated, a motor-driven wiper cleans dust from optical members, such as a low-pass filter, formed on, or formed as a unit on, an image pickup element.

Non-English language reference JP-2001-359287 discloses that a piezoelectric film having a surface acoustic wave generating electrode of energy reflux type is provided on a substrate, which transmits or reflects light. An AC voltage is applied to the surface acoustic wave generating electrode of energy reflux type, thereby generating surface acoustic waves on the substrate.

Non-English language reference JP-2002-229110 discloses that a dust removing mechanism is provided to blow airflow to the surface of an optical element (protecting glass plate or optical filter) arranged on the surface of a CCD or between an imaging lens and a CCD.


The applicants reserve the right to establish that any of the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A are not prior art to the above-captioned application.

Since a first Office Action on the merits has not yet been received, the applicants assume that this Information Disclosure Statement should be considered under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(b)(3).

Accordingly, it is believed that no fee is due. If, however, an Office Action on the merits has been mailed before the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement, the Office is authorized to charge any fee required to have the Information Disclosure Statement considered to the deposit account of Straub & Pokotylo, deposit account number 50-1049.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 12, 2005

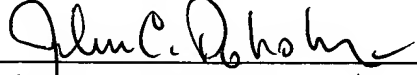


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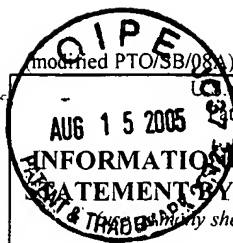
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING under 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on **August 12, 2005** with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



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36,242
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Department of Commerce
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Complete if Known

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Attorney Docket No.: OOCL-152 (6MHA-03S0555P1)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where relevant Passages or Figures appear
	AH	4,387,973	06-14-1983	MARTIN	
	AI	4,841,387	06-20-1989	RINDFUSS	
	AJ	4,920,420	04-24-1990	SANO et al.	
	AK	5,170,288	12-08-1992	IMAIZUMI e al.	
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	AN	6,163,340	12-19-2000	YASUDA	
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	AS	US/2003/0202114	10-30-2003	TAKIZAWA et al.	
	AT	US/2003/0214588	11-20-2003	TAKIZAWA et al.	
	AU	US/2003/0214599	11-20-2003	ITO et al.	
	AV	US/2003/0218685	11-27-2003	KAWAI	
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	AX	US/2004/0047625	03-11-2004	ITO et al.	
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	AZ	US/2004/0169761	09-02-2004	KAWAI et al.	
	BA	US/2004/0227837	11-18-2004	ITO	
	BB	US/2004/0263669	12-30-2004	KOBAYASHI	
	BC	US/2005/0088563	04-28-2005	ITO et al.	

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
	BD	JP-57-078032	05-15-1982	ADETSUKU:KK.		
	BE	JP-62-165127	07-21-1987	SUMITOMO METAL IND. LTD.		
	BF	JP-01-230016	09-13-1989	MINOLTA CAMERA CO. LTD.		
	BG	JP-03-244281	10-31-1991	ALPINE ELECTRON INC.		
	BH	JP-05-213286	08-24-1993	NEC CORP.		
	BI	JP-07-151946	06-16-1995	OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO. LTD.		
	BJ	JP-07-322153	12-08-1995	NIKON CORP.		
	BK	JP-08-079633	03-22-1996	FUJI PHOTO FILM CO. LTD.		
	BL	JP-09-130654	05-16-1997	KONICA CORP.		
	BM	JP-2000-029132	01-28-2000	NIKON CORP.		
	BN	JP-2000-330054	11-30-2000	KYOCERA CORP.		
	BO	JP-2001-298640	10-26-2001	CANON INC.		
	BP	JP-2001-359287	12-26-2001	MINOLTA CO. LTD.		
	BQ	JP-2002-229110	08-14-2002	OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO. LTD.		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Unique citation designation number. 2 See attached kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. 3 Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the Indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16, if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.